

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14-16, 18-19, and 27-31 remain in this application. Claims 1, 11, and 27 are amended to more distinctly describe the subject matter of applicant's invention.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20 and 23-31 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paterson et al (US Patent No. 6,412,042) in view of DeKoning et al (US Patent No. 5,787,242). This rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 11, and 27 have been further amended to claim a controller or means for maintaining data coherency that is not shown in the controller taught in DeKoning et al. No new matter has been added to the claims. Support for the amendment to claims 1, 11, and 27 can be found in the specification, inter alia, at page 14, line 3 through page 17, line 13. The claimed feature is not described in DeKoning et al, which has been cited as teaching a controller. Since Paterson et al is silent regarding the claimed controller, the hypothetical combination of DeKoning et al and Paterson et al (which is not seen to be suggested by the prior art) is silent, therefore neither teaches nor suggests the combination of features recited in claim 1 considered as a whole, including the recited controller limitation. For this reason claims 1, 11, and 27 are deemed to be allowable over the combination of DeKoning et al and Paterson et al, and therefore allowable under 35 USC 103(a). The remaining pending claims are deemed to be allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from an allowable base claim.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paterson et al in view DeKoning et al and further in view of Takahashi et al (US Patent No. 5,707,727). The rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed. Claim 7 is deemed to be allowable for the reasons stated above, namely that claim 7 depends directly from allowable base claim 1.

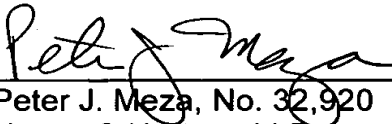
CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14-16, 18-19, and 27-31 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be required by this response as determined on the accompanying transmittal letter. Should any other fee be required, please charge Deposit 08-2025. Should any extension of time be required please consider this a petition therefore and charge the required fee to Deposit Account 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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